VI. *A Letter from Mr.* Ralph Thoresby, *F. R. S. to Dr.* Hans Sloane, R. S. Secr. *concerning ſome* Roman *Antiquities obſerved in* Yorkſhire.

Leeds, April 23, 1709.

Honoured SIR,

THERE have ſome *Roman Monuments* been lately found amongſt the Ruins upon *Adel* or *Echop-Moor*, but having no legible Inſcriptions, they are not worth troubling you with the Draughts of them, only their Size ſeem'd ſtrange to me at firſt; that there ſhould be Altars ſo ſmall, was indeed no ſurprize, I having one (inſerted in the *New Britannia*, p. 782.) little different; but that any other ſort of Commemorative Monuments ſhould be ſo little as eighteen Inches high, and only ſix broad, was new to me, till I found others as ſmall, tho of richer Materials, being Marble, in the Noble Collections of *Chriſtopher Wren* Eſq; and Mr. *Kempe*; whereas theſe are of a very courſe Stone, as Dr. *Liſter* has truly obſerved, moſt of thoſe found in the North are. One of theſe, as appears by the *Diſcus*, has been evidently one of their portable Altars; but another inſtead of the Hearth, having three intire Rolls or Wreaths, 'tis certain was never deſign'd for that purpoſe.

When the *Veſtigia* of this *Roman* Station were firſt diſcovered, (of which ſee *Numb.* 282 of the *Philoſoph. Tranſactions*) I was ready to fancy it to have been the *Adellocum* of the Ancients, from ſome remains of the Name in the preſent *Adle* or *Adel*, as it is writ both in the *Monaſtic. Anglic.* and ſome ancient Charts in my poſſeſſion; but when I was laſt at *London*, having by the favour

vour of *Peter Le Neve* Eſq; *Norroy* King at Arms, an opportunity of peruſing that Venerable Record *Domeſday-Book* in the Exchequer, I found beſides *Adele* and *Echope* beforementioned, another Place in the Neighbourhood, call'd *Burghedurum* or *Burgdunum*, which I am now ready to conclude, was the Ancient *Roman* Name of this Station: That the Itinerary is ſilent herein, is no Argument againſt it; for none, I preſume, do imagine that the Names of all the Towns in the Province are there recited, but only ſuch as lie upon thoſe Roads that are particularly mention'd; but that it has, at leaſt, the Appearance of a *Roman* Name may be argued, becauſe *Burgi* was the common Name whereby they called ſuch Caſtles or Forts as were convenient for War, and well ſtored with Proviſions of Corn, as appears by the Authorities quoted by *Camden* and *Burton* in their Notes upon the *Roman Verteræ*, or *Burgh* under *Stanemoor*; and the *Burgundians* rec'd their Name from their inhabiting ſuch Caſtles: and to me it ſeems probable, that the ſmall ſquared Stones, wherewith the very Antique Church at *Adel* is built, were brought from the Ruins of ſuch a Caſtle, and gave riſe thereby to an old Tradition, which continues to this day, that *Adel-Church* once ſtood upon *Black-hill*, the place where theſe *Roman* Monuments were found; the elevated ſituation of which place ſufficiently accounts for the termination of the Name, the *Gauliſh* or *Britiſh Dunum*, which ſignifies a Hilly or Mountainous Place, being naturalized in the *Roman* Provincial Language. I ſhall only add, that within a Mile of it, there are two ſcattering Houſes, that do to this Day retain the Name of *Burden-* (for *Burgdun-*) *Head.*